

- Q. When will Office of Science Field Office personnel know if they are to become SC FTEs or remain EM FTEs?
- A. Personnel assigned to the Office of the Associate Manager for Science and Technology in the Richland Operations Office will be converted to SC FTEs. An effective date for the transition is uncertain since negotiations with EM have yet to be initiated. This issue will be addressed by the Restructuring Project under the Work Breakdown Structure element entitled “Interfaces with Other DOE Organizations”.

The GAO report dated 6/26/02 on the external regulation of DOE, seems to point in the direction of externally regulating DOE science sites. While the report indicates that DOE's position regarding external regulation is currently neutral, all indications seem to indicate that external regulation will, in fact, move forward. The report also indicates that the 5 multi purpose labs can redirect or reduce their staff by 30 % assuming DOE also reduces its oversight. Upon reading this report, I have the following questions:

- Q. How will external regulation affect the site ES&H personnel and when will this be addressed by the reorganization efforts? While DOE is neutral, it appears there is significant pressure for external regulation.
- A. There is no requirement or assumption in the Project Plan regarding external regulation. The Project Plan will be modified if the Department decides to implement external regulation and Congress passes the necessary enabling legislation. The Project, however, does require the use of external standards whenever possible. Utilization of external standards is a key feature of the “model contract” being developed under the Project’s Work Breakdown Structure sub-element on M&O Contracts.
- Q. Assuming the contract holds the licensee for rad. materials, and is responsible for safety issues as far as OSHA is concerned, how can we improve safety at the sites with a 30 % reduction in ES&H staff -both DOE site and contractor. Seems this will go back to the old system of command and control and dependency on regulating bodies to keep things in check. It seems to me that all of the work DOE has done on Integrated Safety Management and line and worker responsibility will be diminished just when progress is being made.
- A. The Project Team is not in a position to comment on the findings or conclusions of the GAO report on external regulation. However, should the Department decide to implement external regulation, the Team expects that Integrated Safety

Management will continue to be an integral part of line accountability for the safe performance of work.

- Q. Following the development and implementation of R2A2s, it is expected that all SC elements (HQ, site/area offices, and enterprise centers) will be held to a higher accountability standard for their time. If SC implements "billable hours", and the enterprise centers do not get billable hours from HQ and/or the site/area offices, would additional realignment of enterprise personnel be expected?
- A. The Project does not foresee implementing a "billable hours" system to account for usage of employee's time. Should workloads decrease at Enterprise Support Centers, SC will make every effort to reassign and retrain staff or handle reduced workloads through attrition.